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21 December 66

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Sensor Systems for a CIA/SR-71 System

1. With the possible replacement of the A-12 by the SR-71, the following comments on sensor requirements are made; these are the sensors needed to perform a mission equivalent to the current primary photographic missions. For reasons of economy, we do not attempt to use the A-12 sensor systems, but use applicable SR-71 sensors. It must be noted that several missions, now within the capability (or being developed) for the A-12 will not be possible with the SR-71. These deleted missions are analysed in paragraph 3.

2. Recommended Flight Configurations: On the basis of projected usage, and to give a capability essentially equivalent to that provided by the A-12, the following SR-71 sensor systems would be flown:

a. Technical Objective Camera, to provide high resolution detail of selected small targets.

b. Operational Objective Camera, to provide medium resolution imagery of general target areas. This resolution is satisfactory for a large portion of the intelligence collection mission; major vehicle categories and counts, facilities developments, etc., can be obtained. This resolution is comparable to that obtained by

the  
IDEALIST B configuration.

c. Terrain Objective Camera, would be used as a tracker camera. As the SR-71 unit is a 135 pound precision mapping camera, it could be replaced by a smaller lighter tracker.

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3. Missions not Available: With the substitution of the SR-71 for the A-12, some flexibility of missions is lost; some of the missions one cannot accomplish with the SR-71 are:

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4. It must be further noted that the A-12 photographic systems have undergone extensive checkout throughout the analysis community, to assure that necessary auxiliary data is available in the form necessary when required. NPIC has developed the computer programs necessary to handle the extraction of information from the basic film. I do not believe, from informal

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conversations with NPIC, that they are in anywhere near this same status on the SR-71 program. The development of the handling procedures takes considerable time, and would need to be started in the very near future, if this substitution is programmed any time within the next eighteen months.

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Assistant for Technology  
Deputy for  
Research and Development  
Special Activities

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Sensor Systems Division  
Special Activities

A(T)D/R&D/OSA (21 Dec 66)

Distribution:

- 1 - A(T)D/R&D/OSA
- 2 - SSD/OSA
- 3 - D/SA
- 4 - DD/SA
- 5 - D/R&D/OSA
- 6 - A(T)D/R&D/OSA (Chrono)
- 7 - RB/OSA
- 8 - OXC D/O/OSA

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